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THE CENTENARY OF VIKTOR MIKHAILOVICH ZHDANOV

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The article is devoted to the outstanding Soviet scientist - virologist VM Zhdanov. V.M. Zhdanov first USSR stimulated studies of HIV infection. His studies on the classification of viruses are highly appreciated in the world, and he was invited to become a member of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses. VM Zhdanov focused on the fight against polio, and the incidence of paralytic polio has been reduced to a minor problem. In a memorial conference in honor of Viktor Zhdanov virologists attended from 30 countries.

Keywords: Viktor Zhdanov



Viktor Zhdanov was born in the Ukraine on February 13, 1914 and emerged as a leading virologist of the Soviet Union with a strong international reputation. In the year 2014, one century after his birth, a commemoration of his important contributions to the prevention of infectious diseases is appropriate.

His proposal to the World Health Assembly in 1958 that the WHO should

undertake the global eradication of smallpox is undoubtedly a highlight in his scientific career. Twenty one years later (1979) the following proclamation was made public during a WHO meeting in Geneva : *We, the members of the global commission for the certification of smallpox eradication, certify that smallpox has been eradicated from the world.* It should be emphasized that this impressive result could only be accomplished in a joined effort by many scientists like Fenner, Henderson and others as described in *Smallpox and its Eradication* (Fenner et al., 1988).

Viktor Zhdanov death in 1987, two years before the glasnost, has been accelerated by the heavy burden of the Soviet regime. However despite of these serious limitations he has succeeded to play a key role in the development of virology. As director of the Ivanowsky Institute he stimulated research of HIV infection while the officials ignored the presence of AIDS in the USSR. Under his guidance the Ivanowsky Institute was upgraded to a contemporary scientific center for virus research. From 1955 to 1960 he was Deputy Minister of Health of the USSR and in that period of time (1958) he made his proposal for smallpox eradication.

After his graduation from medical school in 1936 he was enlisted in the

army as a military doctor and studied under primitive conditions the epidemiology of infectious hepatitis which resulted in 1946 in the defense of his thesis entitled "Infectious Hepatitis". In that year he was invited by the Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology and was appointed Director in 1958. His studies on virus classification were highly evaluated and he was invited to become a member of the International committee of virus taxonomy. Furthermore he focused his attention on control of infectious diseases by vaccination and hygiene. Mass vaccination with oral live poliovaccine was strongly advocated by Zhdanov and paralytic poliomyelitis was reduced to a minor problem.

Despite the serious limitations because of the regime he was able to collaborate with the western scientific community, which highly appreciated his contributions to the fight of infectious diseases. After his death in 1987 virologists from more than 30 countries attended a memorial conference in honour of Victor Zhdanov. This Centenary is a tribute to the life of a great scientist.

Резюме

**К СТОЛЕТИЮ СО ДНЯ РОЖДЕНИЯ
ВИКТОРА МИХАЙЛОВИЧА ЖДАНОВА**

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Статья посвящена выдающемуся советскому ученому - вирусологу В.М. Жданову, который внес важный вклад в профилактику инфекционных заболеваний, особенно, по ликвидации оспы в мире. В.М. Жданов первым в СССР стимулировал исследования ВИЧ-инфекции. Его исследования по класси-

фикации вирусов высоко оценены в мире, и он был приглашен стать членом Международного комитета по таксономии вирусов. В.М. Жданов сосредоточил свое внимание на борьбе с полиомиелитом, и заболеваемость паралитическим полиомиелитом была сокращена до незначительной проблемы. В мемориальной конференции в честь Виктора Жданова приняли участие вирусологи из 30-ти стран мира.

Ключевые слова: Виктор Жданов

Резюме

**ДО СТОРІЧЧЯ З ДНЯ НАРОДЖЕННЯ
ВИКТОРА МИХАЙЛОВИЧА ЖДАНОВА**

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Стаття присвячена видатному радянському вченому - вірусологу В.М. Жданову, який вніс важливий внесок у профілактику інфекційних захворювань, особливо, з ліквідації віспи в світі. В.М. Жданов першим в СРСР стимулював дослідження ВІЛ-інфекції. Його дослідження з класифікації вірусів високо оцінені в світі, і він був запрошений стати членом Міжнародного комітету з таксономії вірусів. В.М. Жданов зосередив свою увагу на боротьбі з поліомієлітом, і захворюваність паралітичним поліомієлітом була скорочена до незначної проблеми. У меморіальній конференції на честь Віктора Жданова взяли участь вірусологи з 30-ти країн світу.

Ключові слова: Віктор Жданов

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